

**Abstract****Bus Service Interface**

According to the present invention, for connecting the different bus systems to each other to build a superior network, a common network layer is provided to which the bus systems are connected for data and/or control exchange via gateway devices. Further, an intelligent gateway according to the present  
5 invention is distributed in the network, i.e. on the common network layer to which the gateway devices according to the present invention are connected. So this intelligent gateway can be accessed on all gateway devices. This allows the incorporation of cheap (dumb) gateway devices, which just provide the bus API, i.e. a bus service interface. Device specific (software) modules can run  
10 distributed on other intelligent gateway devices or on the intelligent gateway.

(Fig. 4)